



# OESNEWS

*Governor's Office of Emergency Services*

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **OES TESTS PLANS FOR EMERGENCY AT SAN ONOFRE NUCLEAR GENERATING STATION AS PART OF EXERCISE**

LOS ALAMITOS -- The Governor's Office of Emergency Services (OES) participated yesterday in a biennial exercise that tests the ability of the staff at the San Onofre Nuclear Generating Station (SONGS) and off-site agencies to respond to an emergency at the plant.

As part of the exercise, OES activated its Southern Region Emergency Operations Center in Los Alamitos. OES staff also deployed to Southern California Edison's Emergency Operations Facility near San Onofre, the Orange and San Diego county emergency operations centers and the Emergency News Center at Edison's Saddleback facility in Irvine.

The exercise tested the ability of staff from OES and other state agencies, including the Highway Patrol and the departments of Health Services, Social Services and Transportation, to obtain accurate information about the impacts of the simulated emergency and to coordinate state assistance to local agencies through the tasking of state agencies.

"During an emergency, our primary role is to support local efforts. We do this by tasking state agencies to perform functions that are outside their statutory authority and by coordinating mutual aid and requests for assistance from specialized federal agencies through the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)," said OES Director Henry Renteria.

During the exercise, OES simulated the activation of the State Dose Assessment Center and its potassium iodide distribution program. OES also simulated the processing of requests to FEMA for assistance. The simulations included the activation of the Federal Radiation Monitoring and Assessment Center and a DOE flyover to determine the location and direction of the imaginary plume generated as a result of the simulated emergency at San Onofre.

"The SONGS exercise provides us with an opportunity to test our ability to identify and request the unique resources that would be required in the unlikely event of an emergency at San Onofre or at Diablo Canyon," said Renteria. "It's also a chance for new staff to hone their skills in gathering information from the counties on the impact of the emergency, prepare situation reports and identify issues that may arise later as the mock emergency unfolds."

Also testing their plans during the exercise, which was evaluated by FEMA, were the cities of Dana Point, San Clemente and San Juan Capistrano, the California Highway Patrol, the Department of Parks and Recreation and the United States Marine Corps at Camp Pendleton.

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